

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05

SAB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 TRSE-00 /069 R

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DOD/ISA(NESA):CMDR.SICK

PM/MC:MR.FEMMINELLA

PM/SAS:DNIEMI

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R 232334Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

INFO SECDEF

USCINCEUR/ECJ4/7-ILS

DA DALO-ILS

USAMC ALEX VA

CDR MICOM REDSTONE ARC

COMIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: AIRBORNE TOW

REF: (A) KUWAIT 1739 (B) KUWAIT 1518 (C) KUWAIT 1135
(D) KUWAIT 0905 (E) KUWAIT 0372

1. POLICY ISSUE ON RELEASABILITY TO KUWAIT OF XM-65 AIR-
BORNE VERSION OF TOW FOR INSTALLATION ON FRENCH GAZELLE,
OR RELEASABILITY OF US AH-1J COBR HELICOPTER WITH TOW IS
CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE. DATA IN FOLLOWING PARA-
GRAPHS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FOR YOUR DIS-
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CRETIONARY USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOK OFFICIALS.

2. RE AIRBORNE TOW FOR GAZELLE:

A. INQUIRY INTO TOW'S POSSIBLE USE ON GAZELLE HELICOPTER WAS INITIATED IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL (E). RESULTS SHOW THAT TOW/GAZELLE COMBINATION MAY REPEAT MAY BE FEASIBLE TECHNICALLY, BUT WE HAVE NO RELIABLE DATA ON WHAT DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEM WOULD COST.

B. TO DATE, HUGHES AIRCRAFT HAS DONE BULK OF RE-SEARCH ON TOW/GAZELLE PROBLEM AND HAS COMPLETED PRELIMINARY STUDIES INDICATING GENERAL TYPE OF MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO INSTALL STANDARD XM65 TOW SYSTEM ON GAZELLE HELICOPTER.

C. GIVEN OUR ORIENTATION TO TOW/COBRA COMBINATION, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO PARALLEL INDUSTRY EFFORTS AND FINANCE USG TOW/GAZELLE STUDY. WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INTERESTED U.S. COMPANIES' DISCUSSING MATTER IN GENERAL TERMS WITH GOK. (EMERSON PRODUCES TOW LAUNCHERS; HUGHES AIRCRAFT PRODUCES BOTH LAUNCHERS AND MISSILES.) U.S. FIRMS COULD NOT, HOWEVER, RELEASE TECHNICAL DATA WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING MUNITIONS CONTROL EXPORT LICENSE. LICENSE APPLICATIONS ARE JUDGED ON THEIR MERITS AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION, AND WE CANNOT PROVIDE AN ADVANCE COMMITMENT TO APPROVE A LICENSE REQUEST.

3. RE AH-1J COBRA WITH TOW:

REFTEL (D) REQUESTED P AND A FOR AH-1J COBRA HELICOPTERS WITH TOW. PLEASE ADVISE IF REFTELS (B) AND (C) CANCEL REQUEST FOR P AND A DATA CONTAINED IN REFTEL (D). IN EITHER CASE, P AND A DATA CAN NOT RPT NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL POLICY ISSUE IS DECIDED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MISSILES, MILITARY SALES, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE094175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GQLUMSDEN, JR.:BH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750143-0828
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750423/aaaaavhj.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KUWAIT 1739, 75 KUWAIT 1518, 75 KUWAIT 1135
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRBORNE TOW
TAGS: MASS, KU
To: KUWAIT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006